

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FPC-01 DOTE-00 EB-11 ACDA-19

IO-14 NIC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 PRS-01

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R 041432Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7576

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4949

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, ETRD, UR, JA

SUBJECT: ENERGY: SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: TOKYO 3829

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED WITH JAPANESE COUNTERPART THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS AND POSSIBLE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF SOVIET PROPOSAL TO SUBSTITUTE RAIL LINE FOR PIPELINE IN CONTEMPLATED TYUMEN OIL JOINT PROJECT.

2. JAPANESE EMBOFF SAID THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN RAILROAD DEAL OUTLINED BY KOSYGIN TO KEIDANREN MAGNATES AND JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S DELIVERY OF MESSAGE FROM TANAKA TO BREZHNEV A FEW DAYS EARLIER. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM TANAKA WAS RESPONSE TO
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ORAL MESSAGE BROUGHT BY AMBASSADOR TROYANOVSKY IN

FEBRUARY, AND NEITHER JAPANESE NOR SOVIETS HAD ANY INTENTION OF LINKING ECONOMIC PROJECTS WITH POSSIBLE SUMMIT LATER THIS YEAR AND EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE PEACE TREATY. IT WAS PURELY COINCIDENTAL THAT KOSYGIN AND BREZHNEV RECEIVED KEIDANREN REPS SO SOON AFTER RECEIVING TANAKA MESSAGE.

3. OTHER MAJOR POLITICAL ASPECT OF RAILROAD PROPOSAL IS CHINESE ATTITUDE. JAPANESE SOURCE WAS RELUCTANT TO GO INTO DETAIL ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT INDICATED THIS WAS A PRIMARY SOURCE OF CONCERN. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, JAPANESE EMBASSY SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN SOVIET VIEW THAT PARTICIPATION OF THIRD COUNTRIES (I.E., U.S.) IN JOINT PROJECTS WOULD BE WELCOMED. FIRST DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER SEMICHASTNOV CONFIRMED THIS POLICY EXPLICITLY IN NEW TIMES APRIL 5 INTERVIEW.

4. COMMENT: OUR READING OF JAPANESE REACTION TO SOVIET PROPOSAL IS IN ACCORD WITH EMBASSY TOKYO'S SOUNDINGS -- GOJ WILL BE HIGHLY RELUCTANT TO GET INVOLVED IN RAIL LINE UNLESS PRESUMED CHINESE OPPOSITION MIRACULOUSLY EVAPORATES. WE ASSUME U.S. ATTITUDE IF OFFERED PARTICIPATION IN RAIL LINE WILL ALSO GIVE GREAT WEIGHT TO PRC SENSITIVITY, BUT ON THIS ISSUE WE CAN PROBABLY LET THE JAPANESE STAY OUT FRONT. AT THIS STAGE, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT OTHER SIBERIAN PROJECTS OR SOVIET-JAPANESE BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE DRAMATIC SOVIET SHIFT ON TYUMEN OIL.
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